

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 307

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to Mother's Day that the United States Senate should reject the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as it demeans motherhood and undermines the traditional family.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2000

Mr. HELMS submitted the following resolution; which was ordered to lie over,
under the rule

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to Mother's Day that the United States Senate should reject the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as it demeans motherhood and undermines the traditional family.

Whereas motherhood is a God-given right of women to bear and rear children;

Whereas, since 1914, the United States has officially observed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day to display public expression of love and reverence for all American mothers;

Whereas Mother's Day is recognized by the United States and many other countries in affirmation of the invaluable

role mothers play in providing a family upbringing for children;

Whereas the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women integrates a derogatory sentiment toward motherhood as manifested in the Convention's January 3, 2000 Committee Report on Belarus specifically condemning symbols such as Mother's Day;

Whereas the Senate affirms its commitment that the United States should work with other nations to enhance the protection of the fundamental right of motherhood, including the condemnation of coercive population control programs where expectant mothers are forced to undergo abortions or sterilizations;

Whereas the Convention's agenda to promote abortion worldwide invades the laws of countries that hold a religious or moral belief that abortion is the destruction of innocent human life and that it subjects expectant mothers to physical and emotional trauma;

Whereas the Convention seeks to supplant the primary care and nurturing provided by stay-at-home mothers with institutionalized daycare facilities as advocated in the Convention's August 12, 1997 Committee Report on Slovenia, which stated that children cared for at home are deprived of "educational and social opportunities offered in formal daycare institutions"; and

Whereas more than a hundred United States-based family, religious, and educational organizations representing countless millions of Americans strongly oppose United States ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

- 1 (1) the tenets of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women are incompatible with the tradition and policy of the United States to uphold motherhood and to regard motherhood with the highest degree of honor and respect;
- 2 (2) the Convention would create negative perceptions toward motherhood; and
- 3 (3) the Senate should not give its advice and consent to ratification of the fundamentally flawed Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

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